THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • JUNE 05, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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More Chinese companies off-limits to US investors

China vehemently objected on Friday to US President Joe Biden's expansion of a list of Chinese companies whose shares are off-limits to American investors because of their purported links to the Chinese military and surveillance. Telecoms equipment manufacturer Huawei Technologies, China's big state-owned telecoms companies and China National Offshore Oil Corp all are on the new list of 59 companies.

K'taka cancels PU II exams: 1st yr marks to grade students?

Evaluation criteria to be out by Monday; Those unhappy can take exam later

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ New Delhi

THE Karnataka state board on Friday decided to cancel this year's second PUC examinations, following the cancellation of Class 12 CBSE and ICSE exams earlier this week.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar announced that all the second PU students, numbering over six lakh, will be declared "promoted". The Education Department is contemplating using the first PU marks as the base for assessment.

Principal Secretary, Education Department, SR Umashankar said the rationale behind cancelling the second PU exams was that the students had attempted their first PU exams at district level and there is an objective criterion to evaluate and grade them. The board had prepared the question papers for the first PU exams that were held before February 2020. All the students had passed back then.

Suresh Kumar said the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS) has all the college results.

Another impediment for the department to hold the exam is the large number of subjects -- about 39 combinations. The minister said that it takes around 12 days just to hold the exams which is not viable.

He said that consultations were held before arriving at the decision. All the stakeholders and members of the Legislative Council were part of this process, while opinions of parents gathered through Deputy Directors of Public Instruction at the taluk level and phone-ins were analysed.

Those who are unhappy with the grading criteria can write their examination later when the situation improves, along with repeaters and private students, he said.

Pre-University Education Board Director Snehal R said that the evaluation criteria should be out by Monday.

ACADEMIC YEAR TO BEGIN ON JULY 1

The education department has decided to postpone the resumption of primary and secondary school classes for the next academic year to July 1. However, admissions will start on June 15.

As exams tumble, will SSLC students face test in July?

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

MINISTER of Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar on Friday announced that SSLC examinations will be held in the third week of July for 8.75 lakh students. The exams will be in the multiple choice questions (MCQ) format, which requires less-intense evaluation, and the results are expected to be out by the first week of August.

But there were mixed signals from within the government as Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa at Belagavi said that his government will hold the SSLC examinations only if there is a total improvement in the Covid situation. He added that the exams will be called off if the situation does not improve.

Suresh Kumar said that the papers will be clubbed into just two exams. The first paper will be a combination of the core subjects — maths, science and social science. The second paper will be languages. Each subject will carry 40 marks (a cluster of three subjects -- 120 marks), and the exam will be held for three hours.

Students will be given a gap of three to four days between two exams. Examination centres have been doubled to more than 6,000 and each exam hall will accommodate 10-12 students to ensure six feet of social distancing, said Suresh Kumar. He assured that all students will be passed, and the grading is only meant for their future reference. P2

A motorist rides on a flooded road in Bengaluru, which is seeing heavy rain over the last few days | VINOD KUMAR T

MONSOON HITS STATE, RACES TILL BALLARI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE southwest monsoon made its entry into Karnataka on Friday, just a day after it hit Kerala. Racing through the State, it reached up to Ballari on the first day, bringing rain to Bengaluru, interior and coastal parts of the State. The arrival was a day earlier than what was predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). That was because the conditions and winds were favourable, said Geeta Agnihotri, IMD -- Bengaluru, director- in-charge.

In just four days of this month, the State has recorded 37.2 mm rainfall as against the normal of 17.3 mm, which is 115 per cent higher. With the monsoon setting in, IMD has issued yellow and orange alerts for most parts of north and south-interior Karnataka for the next two days. A red alert too has been issued along coastal areas. A thunderstorm and lightning warnings have been sounded at isolated places till Sunday. From Monday, rain will reduce, but the thunderstorm activity will continue, Geeta said.

Bengaluru had received 9 mm of rainfall till 5.30 pm on Friday and 12.4mm till 8.30 pm. The Kempegowda International Airport had recorded 25.6mm till 5.30 pm. The HAL Airport recorded 41.8mm up to 5.30 pm and 44.2 mm till 8.30 pm. P2

RBI pauses rates, cuts growth projections

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

AN explicitly dovish-toned RBI on Friday chose to keep interest rates unchanged as it lowered GDP growth projection for the current financial year to 9.5%, dashing hopes of a double-digit economic growth. The downward revision highlights the economy-wide stress.

Even as RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das was convinced a normal monsoon and business resilience can aid economic recovery, he admitted there were risks to the growth. The central bank was also mindful of the inflation, which it estimates to be at a moderate 5.1% for FY22 despite the recent rise in commodity prices, which the monetary policy committee feels is driven by supply-side constraints.

Announcing a slew of liquidity measures, Das said RBI's focus is now shifting to equitable distribution of liquidity. P12

FY22 GDP GROWTH LOWERED TO 9.5%

RBI has lowered the growth estimate for 2021-22 from 10.5% forecast earlier to 9.5% as "sudden rise in Covid-19 infections and fatalities has impaired the nascent recovery that was underway". According to RBI's revised estimates, Q1 growth is now pegged at 18.5% against 26.2% projected earlier. Q2 growth was lowered marginally to 7.9% from 8.3%

GOOD MONSOON TO TEMPER INFLATION

"A normal south-west monsoon along with comfortable buffer stocks should help to keep cereal price pressures in check," Das said. However, rising commodity prices, especially crude, together with logistics costs could pose serious challenges to the outlook.

POLICY RATES KEPT AT RECORD LOW

The six-member Monetary policy committee decided to keep repo rate (at which banks borrow from RBI), unchanged at a record low of 4% and the reverse repo rate at 3.35%. RBI had slashed the repo rate by 115 bps since March 2020, to soften the blow from the pandemic.

EXPRESS READ

Congress wants Prez to intervene in vax drive

Bengaluru: A Congress delegation submitted a memorandum to Governor Vajubhai Vala seeking the President's intervention and to issue directives to the Centre to ramp up vaccination. P3

Chief Secretary meets Mysuru DC, MCC chief

Mysuru: Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar on Friday held a meeting with Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag and Mysuru DC Rohini Sindhuri in a bid to resolve their differences. P3

₹43K-crore project to build 6 conventional subs gets nod

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN one of the largest Make in India projects in the naval sector, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) to build six conventional submarines at an estimated cost of ₹43,000 crore. The project will be under the strategic partnership model, P 75 (I), which means the whole process will be led by an Indian manufacturer.

The submarines will be equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system, the defence ministry said. The DAC was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On January 21 last year, two domestic shipyard companies — state owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) and private sector firm Larsen & Toubro (L&T) — were identified as strategic partners for the P 75 (I) programme.

These two strategic partners will now get the RFP in about a month and do the legwork, including scouting for global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to provide various systems. They will submit their project reports in three months, after which their technical evaluation will be done and one shipbuilder picked.

Contract signing can happen by 2022-end assuming the project is on the fast track. The chosen company will then begin building infrastructure with Central funds. The selected OEMs will transfer technology and train personnel, after which manufacturing will begin. It's a 30-year project and its first submarine ought to be ready in about 10 years.

KARNATAKA	JUNE 3	JUNE 4
Fresh cases	18,324	16,068
Recoveries	24,036	22,316
Deaths	514	364

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 3	JUNE 4
Fresh cases	1,34,154	1,32,364
Recoveries	2,11,499	2,07,071
Deaths	2,887	2,713

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 3
26,24,971 doses
June 4
33,97,713 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 22,75,67,873

SII GETS DCGI'S NOD TO MAKE SPUTNIK VAX

The DCGI has granted permission to the Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture the Sputnik Covid-19 vaccine in India for examination, test and analysis with certain conditions, official sources said on Friday | P9

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)
Deemed to be University (Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Rank 1 Among Self-Financing Institutes of India | Institution of Eminence

KIITEE 2021
APPLY ONLINE
Last Date
11th June 2021
No Application / Examination Fee
Computer Based Online Test
through KIIT websites
www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in / www.kiit.ac.in

Campus Placement 2021 Highlights*
4000+ job offers | 140 companies | 2500+ students (80%) already placed | 1600+ students with multiple job offers | Rs. 30 lakh highest CTC offered*

B.Tech (4 Years) in following branches of Engineering :
Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Telecommunication, Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics and Electrical, Electronics & Instrumentation, Mechanical (Automobile), Aerospace, Mechatronics, Electronics & Computer Science, Computer Science & Communication, Chemical Technology, Computer Science & Systems.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE
*B.Tech Programme

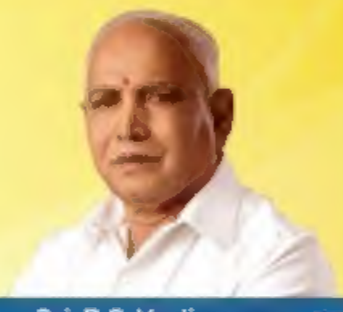
Bachelors Programmes
- B.Tech (4 Yrs)
- B.Arch (5 Yrs)
- B.Tech (Lateral Entry) (3 Yrs)
- B.Sc. Nursing (4 Yrs)
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion / Textile) (4 Yrs)
- BA.LLB, BBA.LLB & B.Sc.LLB (5 Yrs)
- Bachelor of Film & Television Production (3 Yrs)
- BBA (3 Yrs)
- BCA (3 Yrs)
- B.Tech & M.Tech - Biotechnology (Dual Degree) (5 Yrs)
- B.Sc. Computer Science (3 Yrs)
- BA (Hons) in English / Economics / Sociology / Psychology (3Yrs)
- B.Com. (Hons) (3 Yrs)

Masters Programmes
- M.Sc Biotechnology (2 Yrs)
- M.Sc Applied Microbiology (2 Yrs)
- Master of Public Health (2 Yrs)
- Master of Hospital Administration (2 Yrs)
- Master of Mass Communication (Integrated) (5 Yrs)
- MA in English / Economics / Sociology / Psychology (2Yrs)
- M.Sc. Nursing (2 Yrs)
- MCA (2 Years)
- M.Tech. (2 Yrs)
- MA in Yoga Therapy (2 Yrs)
- M.Com. (2 Yrs)
- Integrated M.Sc. & Ph.D (Phy / Chem / Math) (5 Yrs)
- LLM (1 Yr)
- Integrated M.Tech & PhD (5 Yrs)
- M.Arch (2 Yrs)
- Master of Mass Communication (2 Yrs)
- MBA (2 Yrs)
- MBA-Rural Management (2 Yrs)
- MBA-(Agribusiness Management) (2 Yrs)
- Ph.D Programmes

Director, Admissions : Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po- KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India, Ph: 8114373311/12/13/14, 0674 - 2742103, 2741747, Fax : 0674 - 2741465, Email: admission@kiit.ac.in, Websites: www.kiitee.kiit.ac.in & www.kiit.ac.in

KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

Backward Classes Welfare Department



Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

" Crores of our fellow citizens are stagnating in the darkness of ignorance. The common man should be able to participate in every event of the nation wholeheartedly. We have to create such a state."
D. Devaraj Urs

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Hindu Religious and Charitable, Endowments & Minister Incharge of Dakshina Kannada District Sri. Kota Srinivasa Poojary has instructed officials to form medical teams to take care of Covid patients in home isolation.

The Crusader of Downtrodden, Harbinger of Social Reforms,
Former Chief Minister
Garlanding the statue of
D. Devaraj Urs
On the 39th Death Anniversary

Date: 06.06.2021, Sunday, 10.30 a.m.
Venue: West Gate of Vidhanasoudha, Bengaluru

Sri P. Vasanth Kumar, IAS
Commissioner
Backward Classes Welfare Department

Smt. V. Rashmi Mahesh, IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt.
Backward Classes Welfare Department

As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19 NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene